

Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program
Commissioners Meeting – June 5, 2015
9:30 am

MINUTES

Call to Order – Present: Scoville, Bruder, Leckband, Teutsch, Holt, Anselmos, Lutz; Hoffman and Canada, approved absence

Minutes Approval: Aye: unanimous

Open Meetings Act Notice posted at meeting, Meeting Notice was posted at three state locations on May 21, 2015

Director's Report:

Legislation: No legislation affecting the NE Gamblers Assistance Program passed this year; requesting allocation changes from 1% to 3% in future gambling bills; 2016 initiatives will be submitted to Commission in Fall, 2015;

Financial Overview: appropriations for GAP is \$1.876,270 for July 1, 2015-2016 authorizes all spending, \$1.2M for state aid (therapy), which includes \$200,000 to expand (new and existing practices) direct counseling service coverage, includes \$250,000 from Health Care Cash Fund allocation for the program, \$1.478M from all sources based on lottery ticket sales. So, on pace to spend \$1.8-1.9M, more than comes in, so reducing carry over income by \$350,000 (not final). Spending drawing down accumulated surplus, if we don't find more resources within three years, GAP broke. So, today, we are carefully controlling spending above \$1.3M to avoid reducing the surplus.

Contractors: Historical spending \$800-1M annually on direct services. 350-400 clients statewide, constantly changing population. New admissions around 200/annually. 10% of contract dollars devoted to provider outreach have gone beyond to 20%. \$1.35M on track payments to therapists for outreach and direct services. Audits completed with exception of NCGC. Overall compliance. 10% across-the-board records search, included outreach supporting documentation.

Election of Officers: Nominate Full Slate (Lutz), Second (Anselmo) - Unanimous in favor of re-electing current officers: Ed Hoffman, Chair; Teri Teutsch, Vice Chair; Janelle Holt and Mark Canada (Co-Secretary)

Travel Approval:

Midwest Conference in K.C. – approval by resolution to spend up to \$500.00 - Motion (Holt), Second (Anselmo) – Vote: unanimous

National Conference in Baltimore, MD - \$2387.00 full travel package, not including ground transportation and some meals need approval up to by resolution \$2800 - Motion to Approve (Leckband) Second (Holt) – Vote: unanimous

Contract Increases: \$34,500 total increase request

Fricke: \$10,000

Sullivan: \$7,000

Choices: \$5,000

Hampton: \$12,500

Motion to Approve (Leckband), Second (Holt) – Vote: Unanimous

Budget Approval: Reviewed Budget Outline and three budget proposals

FY2016 – Finance sub-committee (Holt and Anselmo reporting) concurred provider administrative costs as too expensive per client, considered cutting 10% provider outreach dollars and put importance of treatment costs first. As we add therapists, problem will continue. So question was: how do we lessen the damage to therapy. Consensus: reduce administration costs but increase payment for admissions. Consider reductions in outreach. Unified messaging should be centralized from home office.

Commission Decision: Goal is to get therapy to people who need therapy. As the problem gambling commission, our responsibility is to know that our outreach dollars are spent on problem gambling messages, not spent on advertising individual counseling centers that give therapy to a multitude of disorders. Finance subcommittee discussed cuts to administration to 5% and increasing the per assessment amount fee by \$50.

Budget Motion (Leckband), Second (Bruder):

To approve a budget that includes \$110,000 for helpline, \$95,000 for provider outreach, \$95,000 for GAP outreach, totaling \$300,000 for outreach. \$1.1M for therapist contracts, the amount from which not to exceed 5% for administrative services, from the total appropriation of \$1.876M, arriving at the total budget of \$1.622,636, leaving an unobligated residual of \$253,364, \$100,000 of which is reserved for expanded services.

Approved: Aye – Bruder, Leckband, Teutsch, Holt, Anselmo, Lutz;
Nay - Scoville

Contract Terms: to be determined between executive director and individual contractors

Motion by (Lutz), Second (Bruder): To amend the rate schedule by raising the current assessment to \$315 and addendum fee to \$115
Approved by unanimous vote

Training and Certification Standards Approval: Commission must approve the training and certification standards for problem gambling therapy.

New changes:

- Issuance of provisional certification (for new certificated candidates)
- Standards for provisional certification (oversight by a certified supervisor)

Motion to approve the new changes (Holt), second (Scoville) with background check caveat (Anselmo) – Approved by unanimous vote

Adjourn – 1:55 p.m.